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Hongkong, April 4, 1885. 573

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Hongkong, July 18, 1884. 1187

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Hongkong, April 6, 1885. 583

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Hongkong, May 19, 1881. 932

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR MANILA VIA AMOY.

The Spanish Steamer

Vulpe, Capt. J. ARIAS, will be

despatched as above on

MONDAY, the 4th Instant, at 4 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

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Agents.

Hongkong, May 2, 1885. 725

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THE SCOTTISH ORIENTAL STEAM-

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The Company's Steamer

Mongkut, Captain P. H. LOFF, will be

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above Ports on TUESDAY, the 5th Inst.,

at 10 a.m.

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Agents.

Hongkong, May 2, 1885. 723

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,

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FOR SWATOW, AMOY, & FOCHOW

(SHARP PEAK).

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above Ports on WEDNESDAY, the 6th Inst., at

Daylight.

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General Managers.

Hongkong, May 2, 1885. 722

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Freight will be received on board until 4

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Packages will be received at the office until

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For further information as to Passage

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Company, No. 50A, Queen's Road Central.

F. E. FOSTER,

Agent.

Hongkong, May 2, 1885. 724

Vessels Advertised as Loading.

Destination.	Vessels.	Captain.	Agents.	Date of Leaving.
Chefoo and Tientsin.	Sin Nanxing (s).	Waddell.	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	May 4 at 3 p.m.
Havre, &c., via Suez Canal.	Bellona (s).	Schmidt.	Siemens & Co.	About May 5.
London, &c., via Suez Canal.	Veneta (s).	A. B. Duffell.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	May 7 at 4 p.m.
London, via Suez Canal.	Deucalion (s).	Purdy.	Butterfield & Swire.	May 7.
Manila, via Amoy.	Julietta (s).	J. Arias.	Melchers & Co.	May 4 at 4 p.m.
Manila, &c., via Saigon.	Yungta (s).	Lormier.	Messageries Maritimes.	May 14, at noon.
San Francisco, via Yokohama.	City of Peking (s).	Pittman.	Pacific Mail S. S. Co.	May 15 at 3 p.m.
San Francisco.	Thiora.	Fraser.	Russell & Co.	Quick despatch.
Shanghai.	Kwongze (s).	Wood.	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	May 4 at 4 p.m.
Shanghai, via Amoy.	Menelaus (s).	Nelson.	Butterfield & Swire.	May 5.
Swatow, Amoy and Tamsui.	Fokien (s).	Westoby.	Douglas Lapraik & Co.	May 3 at daylight.
Swatow and Bangkok.	Mongkut (s).	P. H. Loff.	Yuen Fat Hong.	May 5 at 10 a.m.
Swatow, Amoy and Fochow.	Namoa (s).	Douglas.	Douglas Lapraik & Co.	May 6, at daylight.
Sydney and Melbourne, &c.	Guthrie (s).	Douglas.	Douglas Lapraik & Co.	May 12, at 2 p.m.
Sydney and Melbourne.	Da Bay (s).	S. Rickard.	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	May 12, at 4 p.m.
Yokohama and Higo.	Denbighshire (s).	S. Rickard.	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	May 2, at noon.
Yokohama and Higo.	Benledi (s).	Farquhar.	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	About May 4.

SHARE LIST.—QUOTATIONS.

TELEGRAMS.

RUSSIA AND AFRICANA.

LONDON, 1st May.

The reported occupation of Marochek by the Russians is unfounded.

THE POSITION OF TURKEY.

The Continental Powers are urging Turkey to maintain neutrality in case of war between England and Russia.

PRECAUTIONS AT PORT PHILIP.

(MELBOURNE).

The following telegram was received last night by the Government from the Premier of Victoria:

MELBOURNE, 1st May.

It may at any moment become necessary to remove facilities now afforded for navigation of Port Phillip. In that event vessels approaching Heads will be warned by finding lights Point Linsdale and Queenscliffe extinguished. No vessel will be permitted to enter between sunset and sunrise. Arrangements made for piloting vessels between sunset and sunrise. Electric lights may be exhibited at any time from Queenscliffe and Point Nepean for defence purposes. Such lights must not be taken as guiding lights.

THE RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH FLEETS.

(Special to N.C.D. News.)

NAOBAKEI, 27th April.

The British man-of-war *Vigilant* left here yesterday, and the *Zephyr* leaves today. The *Audacious*, *Sapphire*, *Hawker*, *Swift*, and *Merlin* remain. The *Agamemnon* is off Port Hamilton. The entrance to Vladivostok is being guarded by the Russian man-of-war *Monomakh*, *Oprichnik*, and *Rasbomik*, besides six gunboats and four transports.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.—*Laertes*, April 10; *Gordon Castle*, and *Haverton*, April 13; *Harter*, and *Electra*, April 15.

The next *FRENCH MAIL*, by the M. M. Co.'s str. *André*, left Saigon for this port on Saturday, the 2nd May, at 2 a.m., and may be expected here on or about Tuesday, the 5th inst., early.

The next *ENGLISH MAIL*, by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Edith*, left Singapore for this port on Thursday, the 30th ult., at 5 p.m., and may be expected here on or about Tuesday, the 5th inst.

The S.S. *Taiyang* left Singapore for this port on the 27th ult.

The S.S. *Mencius* left Singapore on the 27th ult. for this port.

The S.S. *Glenavon* left Singapore for this port on the 29th ult.

Sir Geo. Phillip and Lady Phillip left here for Japan to-day in the *City of New York*.

A TELEGRAM in an Indian paper, dated London the 18th April, states that the Australian and Chinese squadrons will be reinforced immediately.

LEE LUN KWA took his passage for Canton on the steamer *White Cloud* yesterday evening, being escorted on board by Inspectors Lindsay and Quincey.

THE Agent of the M. M. Co. informs us that the mail steamer *André* left Saigon this morning (Saturday) at 2 o'clock for this port.

THE French transport *Chateau Yquem*, which arrived here this morning with several hundred troops on board and 300 mules, will, we understand, leave immediately for the Pescadores.

We are requested to intimate that the evening service at St. John's Cathedral to-morrow will commence at 5 o'clock, and that the Sunday evening services will commence at that hour throughout the summer months.

We have to acknowledge with thanks a copy of 'Events in Hongkong and the Far East, 1875 to 1884,' a neat little work just issued by the Daily Press. The book contains a list of the principal events which have occurred in the Far East during the years named, given in chronological order with a complete index. It is clearly and tastefully printed on good paper, is of a convenient size, and bound in an elegant cloth cover. It is most valuable as a reference book, and should have a large sale.

It has been decided to hold the field day at Kowloon which we referred to a week ago, on Tuesday next. The defensive force, which will include the Volunteers and be under the command of Major Hamilton, will, we believe, take up a position at or near the fort at Kowloon West, the attacking force, under Colonel Graves, advancing from the direction of Kowloon City. The latter force will include a battery of field guns worked by gun lascars. All the men that can be spared from Garrison duty will be mustered 'for the occasion,' from the Buffs, Royal Artillery and Gun Lascars. It is to be hoped that there will also be a good turn out of the Volunteers, who are ordered to parade at Headquarters not later than 8.45 p.m.

It would have been more satisfactory had the telegram given the authority for the contradiction that Marochek was occupied by the Russians. The London Standard is usually well informed; and if this contradiction be official, it would have been much better had that fact been added to the statement. There is a Russian look about the telegram of to-day. Do the 'Continental Powers' include Germany; and are France and Germany here roving in the same boat? Altogether the message

is eminently unsatisfactory, and in its present incomplete form, it would have been well had it been lost on the way. England may be comparatively certain of the active help of Turkey if she goes to war with Russia. But if England is compelled to go to war, she is not in the habit of changing her mind even if her supposed allies do hesitate. Things are no better, we are afraid; and Consols are said to be unquotable.

THE S.S. *Ghazee*, 1,764 tons, Captain John Johnson, which arrived here on the 22nd April from Newcastle (N.S.W.), has been chartered by the Naval Authorities as one of the fast cruisers which will serve in the Eastern Seas. The *Ghazee* has, we understand, loaded munitions of war here for the supply of the vessels of war stationed at Singapore, and left for that port to-day.

We notice, with regret, the departure of M. Guillaume Sauvet, for Shanghai, per the steamer *Amoy*. M. Sauvet during his short stay here has won golden opinions for himself as a musician of high order; the pianoforte recitals which he gave during last winter afforded the community ample evidence of his undoubted and uncommon ability, as well as great pleasure and entertainment. We hope he may be successful in Shanghai.

TWO French ironclad *Turquoise*, flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Rieuher, second in command in the squadron of the Far East, arrived at Saigon on the 18th April. The *Seignemais* says that Admiral Rieuher is one of the most distinguished though one of the youngest general officers in the navy. For during more than six years, as aide-de-camp to different Governors, he was mixed up with the events which occurred in Cochinchina, for which Colony he always had a great attachment. Promoted captain de vaisseau for war services in 1871, after one year's rank as captain de frigate, Admiral Rieuher received the 'stars' in March 1882.

A CORRESPONDENT in Taiwan, writes, under date the 28th ultimo: 'Thirteen French men-of-war were reported by Chinese to be at the Pescadores on the 28th April. When the *Pescadore* on the 28th April. When the *Pescadore* passed through on the 21st April, there were only eight French vessels at Makung.'

'The Chinese here are quiet, but distrustful of the French intentions, remembering, I suppose, the lesson read them at Foochow. It is said that the Taoist has received no official notification from his Government of the armistice.'

'The sugar markets in the island are excited and unreliable. The steamer *Active*, *Amoy* and *Wismar* all loading for Japan at the same time promised a good race. The *Active* left at 3.30 on Sunday, the 26th April, with 8,000 piculs; the *Amoy*, by trying to clear at 5 o'clock on Monday evening, one hour after office hours, lost twelve hours and only left this morning. The *Wismar* will leave to-morrow.'

SAYS the *Saigonais*:—The transport *Tong-wei* arrived in the river from Keelung on the 23rd April with 90 wounded and a convoy of Chinese prisoners taken from the *Phigon*, a Chinese vessel sailing under the English flag, captured by one of our cruisers on the coast of Formosa, on the 11th April. This steamer had on board 750 soldiers, 16 officers and 4 mandarins, of whom three were of the rank of general, the fourth being the parent of Liu, the Tao-tai of Formosa. Admiral Courbet had employed a portion of these soldiers as coolies, either on shore or on board the ships, but as he found it impossible to retain all the prisoners, who associated in active surveillance, he had put at the disposal of the Governor of Cochinchina the officers, the mandarins, and 244 soldiers. These soldiers, with six of their officers, will proceed by the next mail to Polo-Condore, where they will be employed on the works for the Bal-can lighthouse. The five other officers and the four mandarins will be kept at Saigon. The *Tong-wei*, after having completed re-equipment, &c., will rejoin the flag of Admiral Courbet at the Pescadores.

A PRELIMINARY meeting of the members of the Hongkong Gun Club was held in the Hongkong Club yesterday afternoon, to consider a project for preserving game in the Colony. There was a good attendance, and among those present were H.E. Major General Cameron and several members of the Legislative Council. A letter from the Governor was read by General Cameron, in which His Excellency expressed his approval of the scheme; promised to support the granting of a lease of land at the Eastern end of the Island on easy terms to the Association, where hares, rabbits, pheasants, deer and partridges might be protected, and he also promised to contribute \$50 towards the preliminary expenses. He thought that after the preliminary expenses have been met the cost of maintaining the Association would be about \$200, or \$1200, for the pay of five or six gamekeepers and food for the game, such as rice or grain. Major General Cameron was afterwards elected President of the Association, and on the suggestion of Mr. Francis the present committee of the Gun Club was appointed a provisional committee of the Association to collect information. The Secretary of the Gun Club, Lieut. D'Aeth, said he had ascertained that deer could be purchased from Hainan at \$2 per head, partridges from Foochow at \$3.50 per dozen;

deer could also be obtained from Formosa, and he should think they would be able to get rabbits from Australia almost as a gift.

THE *Saigonais* of the 19th April publishes the following list of probable movements to take place amongst the vessels of the French navy during the current year.—The *Mytilus* was to arrive in March at Brest to replace *Hirondelle* in the squadron. The *Robert* was also to be fitted out at Rochefort in December in order to replace the *Seignemais* at Lorient, the latter to return to Brest in February 1885. *L'Éclair*, at Lorient, is to proceed to the South Atlantic, where the *Tactique* is no longer able to continue her service. The *Faucon* will equip at Cherbourg to replace the *Reine-Blanche* in the Pacific, and the *Doris*, at Brest, to take the place of the *Dayot*, on the same station. The *Labouderais* will proceed to Tahiti, to relieve the *Voyage*, and the *Duguesclin*, at Rochefort, will replace the *Bayard* in the Far East. The *Victorien*, now at Cherbourg, will relieve the *Galassimire*, the *Thétis* the *Triomphante*, the *Sfax*, from Brest, will relieve the *Duguay-Trouin*; the *Dupetit-Thouars* the *Villars*, the *Saint*, at Cherbourg, the *Châteaurenault*; *L'Infernal* from Lorient relieves the *Edaïreux*, and the *Pourvoyeur* the *Sadoc*, all these vessels belonging to the squadron of the Far East.

H.E. G.M. Elizabeth, Captain G. Schering, left *Amoy* for Shanghai on the 27th ultimo.

IT may be interesting to know what the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon thinks of Raleigh's delight. In a discourse at the Tabernacle he declared that if anybody could show him in the Bible the command, 'Thou shalt not smoke,' he was ready to keep it. 'I find,' he said, 'ten commandments, and it's as much as I can do to keep them; and I've no desire to make them into eleven or twelve. Why, a man may think it a sin to have his boots blacked. Well, then, let him give it up and have them white-washed. I wish to say that I am not ashamed of anything whatever that I do; I don't think smoking makes me ashamed, and therefore I mean to smoke.'

'HONGKONG LODGE' OF GOOD TEMPLARS.

The 30th ult. terminating the last day of the Good Templar quarter, the usual election and installation of the officers of the Hongkong Lodge, A.C., for the current quarter, took place yesterday evening, in their Lodge Room at the Temperance Hall.

The election contest finished in a most satisfactory manner, and resulted in the following brethren being entrusted with the safe keeping of the affairs of this Lodge for another quarter:—W.C.T., Bro. G. J. King; W.V.T., Bro. S. Smith; W. Sec., Bro. B. Sandford; W.F. Sec., Bro. Eglew; W. Treas., Bro. W. Goulbourn; W. Chap., Bro. J. McIlwaine; W. Mar., Bro. T. Gleason; W. Guard, Bro. Coleman; W. Sen., Bro. J. McGarry; W.A. Sec. and W. Dep. Mar., Bros. Buck and Rees, respectively; Bro. G. M. Mills, the retiring and energetic W.C.T., taking the office of P.W.G.T.

Before the installation ceremony was commenced the various reports from the officers of the past quarter were read to the Lodge. Those of the Finance Committee, Secretary and Treasurer were received with marked approval by all present. The finances of this Lodge have for years past been handled with judicious care and although heavy sums have had to be disbursed from time to time, the report showed a creditable balance of \$150. The roll of members is large and satisfactory, and among those belonging to the Lodge are no less than 14 Grand Lodge Members.

The installation of the officers elect was then proceeded with by Bro. W. H. Western, P.L.D., who kindly officiated in the absence of Bro. G. C. Banker, through indisposition, and who performed the impressive ceremony very creditably. The officers being installed the Visiting Deputy congratulated the members on their excellent conduct throughout the whole proceedings, thanked the Lodge generally in the name of the Grand Lodge of England and exhorted all present to ever have before them the motto of our beloved order, 'Heart to Heart and Hand to Hand.' The meeting terminated at 9.30 p.m., all present congratulating each other that they might look forward to an interesting and successful new quarter to the order in Hongkong.—Communicated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LEE LUN KWA'S PARLOR.
To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

SIR,—It is to be hoped that when the Secretary of State reads the explanation the Governor gave for releasing the above-named *feld*, he will, in a marked manner, instruct H.E. that his Council was the proper source from which to seek advice. Had this been done, there is not a shadow of doubt that the parson would never have been granted. The Colonial Surgeon's advice does more honor to his generous and humane disposition, than to his judgment, and he seems to have overlooked the gravity of the question involved. That Lee Lun Kwa will soon commence his machinations, and involve the relatives of certain natives residing in Hongkong who gave evidence against him in beyond doubt. Knowing something of H.E.'s shuffling nature, I am convinced he never troubled his brains to study this exceptionally important case; and, consequently, he throws the responsibility on subordinates, and, in a marked manner, on an acting official, and to say the least, this is not creditable to him.

H.E.'s conduct in this matter deserves the most severe censure, for it is incredible that a man of his rank should have allowed himself to be misled by the parson, and, consequently, he throws the responsibility on subordinates, and, in a marked manner, on an acting official, and to say the least, this is not creditable to him.

Yours, JUSTICE.

OUR PORT'S VIEW OF THE SITUATION.

Our Island is in a 'tare' situation. All about the Russian scare, and the broken have a merry little time; But things are not so bad, And we need not all go mad, For they cannot stand our sultry Southern clime.

The unofficial M. L. O.'s Are not at all effused, And the volunteers will still decline; But the volunteers are ready, And the 'Banks' now look so steady, That off Australian beef we now can dine.

The General does assure us, Should the Russians try to floor us, That a dozen shots at least we now can pour Into any foreign ship That's disposed to take a trip Through the harbour here, if we should go to war.

But our weakness we discuss, And make a mighty fuss, Over the Russian matter left alone, Or in the hands of those Whom our sapient rulers chose To guard us in this islet far and lone.

H. K.

Marine Court.

(Before Captain Ramsey, R.N., Acting Marine Magistrate.)
Saturday, May 2.

REFUSAL OF DUTY.

John Chan, of the *North Star*, Edward Max, John Chan, of the *North Star*, were charged by William Boyle Minchin, master of the British ship *Hindostan*, with refusing duty on board the said ship on the 1st inst.

Captain Minchin stated that yesterday, after the defendants had been put on board the ship by the police, they refused to do any more duty on board the *Hindostan*. Defendants admitted the charge and were sentenced by His Worship to be imprisoned with hard labour for twelve weeks; to be released, however, at the order of the Captain.

Telegrams.

THE PORT PANTHER.

From telegrams from Royal Pind published in Bombay on the 17th inst. it appears the Afghans were attacked on the 1st April by a large number of men belonging to General Komaroff's force which, it is already known, was assembled fifteen miles north of Peshawar. Colonel Abbott being about five miles distant. The Afghans occupied entrenchments at the time, and fought well, but were overpowered; and about 200 of them were cut to pieces and the Russians then occupied Peshawar. One telegram says further parties are obviously desired as to how the conflict began, and what results will follow.

London, April 30, 10.50 a.m.—General Komaroff (the Russian Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Transcaspian) called the Afghans on March 30th on the banks of the Kachka. The Afghans were defeated with a loss of five hundred killed, the whole of their artillery and entire camp being also captured by the Russians.

The Russian loss was eleven killed and thirty-four wounded.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

London, April 28.—A Persian paper, the *Shah*, has called the Shah's Government to be allowed to disembark troops at Astrabad, so as to march thence along the Atrak to Merv and Sarakhs.

Singai, April 2.—Two army corps, totaling fifty-one thousand men, are now ready for an advance upon Peshin, and only await the word to move from home.

The Government of Nepal has offered the services of 15,000 Gurkhas, and the Maharajah of Bhurtpore 500 cavalry, in the event of a war with Russia.

The Government of India have issued orders for the immediate construction of a military railway for fifty miles through the Bolan pass.

David Pind, April 9.—The later negotiations carried on between the Viceroy and the Amir received their expression at the Durbar when the Amir made the following declaration through Mr. Durand, the Foreign Secretary:—

'The Amir is greatly obliged by the kindness shown him by your Excellency, and for the favour shown him by Her Majesty the Queen. In return for this favour and the assistance rendered to him by the British Government he declares that it will help Afghanistan in beating off any external enemy, therefore the Afghan nation will join in the first instance, and will stand side by side with the British Government.'

ARMAMENT OF THE PORTS AT HONGKONG.

The following despatch was forwarded by Lord Derby to Governor Bowen, under cover of the 20th March:—

War Office to Colonial Office.
War Office, 13th March, 1885.

'I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, forwarding further dispatch from the Governor of Hongkong concerning the Defence Works of the Colony; and in reply to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that when the subject of the Defence of Hongkong was first considered, the guns which it was proposed to arm the batteries with, were to be of the calibre which at 3,000 yards can only penetrate 9 inches of iron.

As the project developed, it was thought desirable to employ more modern guns, and the 9.2-inch B.L. Gun was proposed;—a gun which was thought to be sufficiently potent to beat off any ironclads likely to be met with in those seas.

More recent events in China have, however, demonstrated the possibility of the attack of Hongkong by vessels of war carrying guns and armour with which even the 9.2-inch gun would be hardly able to cope, and it has now been determined to employ a certain number of 10-inch B.L. guns of 27 tons.

This gun is capable of penetrating nearly 18 inches of iron at 8,000 yards; and, although still more powerful guns are now being constructed, it is considered that guns of this nature, which are the heaviest that can be worked by hand, are amply sufficient for the Defence of Hongkong; aided as that defence would be by mines and also by torpedo-boats.

More heavier guns than the 10-inch of 27 tons employed, it must be borne in mind that hand power would no longer suffice for working them, and the difficulty of maintaining in working order at all times, at a foreign station, the machinery needed for the heaviest guns, which, if out of order, would render the guns useless and thus completely cripple the defence, has decided the Home Government not to attempt to

FEES CHARGED FOR ISSUING BILLS OF HEALTH.

The following correspondence was laid on the table at the meeting of the Legislative Council held yesterday. The first despatch is from Governor Bowen to the Secretary of State:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HONGKONG, 23rd January, 1885.

My Lord,—I have the honour to lay before your Lordship the following correspondence connected with the issue of Bills of Health at this Port:

2. It appears that at many ports the production of Bills of Health is insisted on in the case of all vessels coming from Hongkong. These Bills of Health have for many years been granted by the Colonial Surgeon and the Health Officer on payment of a private fee varying from five (\$5) to ten (\$10) dollars for each Bill of Health issued. No return, however, was made of these fees, and this Government was not aware of the practice of receiving them until quite recently. During the enforcement of Quarantine Regulations in this Colony last year, the attention of the owners and agents of ships was called to the subject, and representations were made by them to the Chamber of Commerce, which addressed my Government as follows:—

'It has come to the knowledge of the Committee that the practice has prevailed in this Colony for some time past of charging for Bills of Health a varying scale from five (\$5) to ten (\$10) dollars, the various presumably being made on account of the difference in tonnage of Steamers, or length of voyage, or for some other reason.'

3. According to the Schedule published by the Government, the Committee is unable to see where the charge for Bills of Health is recognized by the Government. No doubt these fees are collected by the Government Officials, and their submission in virtue of the public office held under the Government; and the Committee would be glad to know whether the Government recognizes these charges, and the varying scale on which some of them are based, as the Committee has been asked to ascertain and ascertain this from any record or returns made of fees so collected, and their application by the Government.'

4. I caused a copy of this communication from the Chamber of Commerce to be forwarded to the Colonial Surgeon (Dr. Ayres), who was requested to furnish explanations. In reply a report was received from him, in which he stated that the right of the Health Officer and himself to receive fees for the issue of Bills of Health belongs to them in their capacity as private medical practitioners.

5. As it appeared, however, that the Bills of Health issued bore the Royal Arms, and were stamped with an official seal, and were signed by the two Officers in their official capacity, I called for a return of the fees received during the year 1883. This return showed that the fees collected by the Colonial Surgeon during that period amounted to only two hundred and forty dollars (\$240), whereas those received by the Health Officer amounted to the large sum of one thousand nine hundred and eighty dollars (\$2,980), (about 260*g*), or more than his Official salary, viz. two thousand dollars per annum (\$2,000), (about 240*g*).

6. Since this return was furnished, the use of the Royal Arms and other Official attestations has been discontinued, and the Colonial Surgeon and Health Officer claim that, as any duly qualified medical practitioner can grant Bills of Health, they are in a position exactly similar to that of any other practitioners in the Colony. However, there can be little doubt that the Official status of these two Officers has enabled them to have the monopoly of these fees, for it is alleged that the authorities at the different ports at which vessels call for their onward voyage from this Colony have not so readily accepted Bills of Health not signed by medical practitioners of recognized Official standing.

7. This question was brought before the Executive Council, when the following resolution was agreed to unanimously:—

'That inasmuch as the Bills of Health should be addressed to the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, stating that the important question of the fees charged for issuing Bills of Health has been fully considered by the Governor in Council, and that the Bills should be issued free with the exception of a small charge to cover the Government expenses of printing, &c. But as vested interests appear to have grown up, it is advised that the whole question should be referred to the Secretary of State for his decision.'

8. I am unwilling without your Lordship's instructions to interfere with what may be now considered the vested interests of the Colonial Surgeon and the Health Officer, the fees for Bills of Health having been collected in the same manner as now during the tenure of office of their predecessors. But as the cost of Bills of Health constitutes a serious tax on shipping, I would strongly recommend that, as soon as a proper arrangement can be made to that effect, the Health Officer of this Port should issue Bills of Health at a nominal charge, and should pay the fees into the Colonial Treasury.

9. In the case of the Colonial Surgeon, who, as has been shown, collects only a small amount each year in the way of fees for granting Bills of Health, it would not be difficult to deal with the matter at once; but in the case of the Health Officer, owing to the large amount of fees annually received by him, an arrangement could not be so easily made. Adequate compensation for the Health Officer would be a heavy tax on the present revenues of the Colony.

10. Under these circumstances, I have felt it to be my duty to bring the facts of this case to your notice, and to solicit instructions as to the manner in which your Lordship desires that this matter should be dealt with in future.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HONGKONG, 19th January, 1885.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 14th inst., requesting us to state what are the

mount heavier guns than these at Hongkong.

It will be seen from the above sketch of the history of the designs for the Defence of Hongkong that circumstances have compelled changes in the original proposals, and that each successive advance in the power of the artillery, while throwing on the Imperial Government an increased charge for armaments, has also increased the amount which will be necessary for constructing the works.

The exact increase in cost cannot at this moment be estimated precisely, but it will undoubtedly be considerably in excess of the amount which the Colony was asked to contribute at the time when the original scheme was under consideration.

The enclosures which accompanied your letter are returned herewith as requested. I have &c., (Signed), HENRY DEAN.

Ports which insist on a Bill of Health being produced from Hongkong, have the honour to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that Bills of Health from Hongkong are required by the following Ports, viz.:—

1. Manila, which at all times insists on the production of a Bill of Health from Hongkong.

2. All Spanish Ports, speaking generally, require a Bill of Health from this Port.

3. San Francisco and all United States Ports likewise insist at all times on Bills of Health from Hongkong.

4. All Australian Ports.

5. Mauritius. Capetown also would insist on a Bill of Health from Hongkong in the case of a steamer arriving direct from Hongkong without having called at and obtained a Bill of Health from Mauritius, but in the case of a steamer having called at Mauritius or route for Capetown, the latter Port is then satisfied with a Bill of Health from Mauritius alone.

6. All vessels proceeding to Europe via the Suez Canal insist on a Bill of Health with Bills of Health from this Port, in order to avoid 'Quarantine,' which would otherwise be enforced by Egypt.

I would also state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that during the period of enforcement of the Quarantine Regulations here, the production of a Bill of Health from Hongkong was insisted upon by the Health Officer of Hongkong.

The Secretary of State to Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G. C. M. G.

DOWLING STREET, 20th March, 1885.

Sir,—I have received your despatch, No. 36, of the 23rd of January, relative to the fees charged for issuing Bills of Health to vessels leaving Hongkong.

2. I approve the action which you have taken in this matter, and the course which you propose to adopt in the future. I have given your careful consideration to the question as to how the special cases of Dr. Adams and Dr. Ayres should be dealt with, on which you request my instructions.

3. I do not feel, however, that this is a question upon which, with the information before me, I am in a position to give any definite opinion; but I shall be prepared to sanction the grant of such a personal allowance to Dr. Adams as the Legislative Council may recommend, bearing in mind that, since I cannot be doubtful that the number of fees which he received would have been much less had he not improperly given an official character to the Bills of Health issued by him, his compensation allowance should be calculated rather upon what his fees might have amounted to had the Bills of Health which he issued been of a purely unofficial character.—With regard to Dr. Ayres, I presume that this circumstance would not have affected his fees to the same proportionate extent.

4. I need not add that any such allowance should be payable to Dr. Adams and Dr. Ayres, and should not be continued to their successors.

THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF HONGKONG FOR 1884.

The following Report on the Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1884, prepared by the Auditor General (the Hon. W. H. Marsh, Colonial Secretary) was laid before the Legislative Council yesterday:—

RECEIPTS.

1. In a report made by me on 10th November last, I estimated that the Revenue for the year 1884, which had been originally estimated at \$1,213,598, would not exceed \$1,151,000.

The accounts for that year have now been closed and that Revenue actually received proves to have been \$1,175,071 or \$22,071 in excess of my revised Estimate. Besides this amount the sum of \$10,095 has been collected for premia on sales of land.

2. The items which exhibit the most considerable falling off, as compared with the original Estimates, are the following:—

1. Licences, \$125,174
2. Stamps, 13,697 less than est.
3. Interest, 3,037 do do
4. Storage of Goods, 2,450 do do

On the other hand, excesses over the original Estimates will be seen in a number of items, the most important of which are:—

5. Miscellaneous receipts, \$37,972
6. Rents of Lands, 16,137
7. Municipal Rates, 14,389 more than estimated.
8. Postage, 12,362 do do
9. Fines, 12,275 do do
10. Spirit Licences, 3,812 do do
11. Fees, 2,392 do do

3. The principal falling off in the Revenue of 1884 has been under the head of Opium Licences (No. 1), owing mainly to the San Francisco market for this drug having been largely overbought during the year 1883, in anticipation of a considerable increase in the Opium duty.

The Government of California had announced its intention of imposing 'The restrictions imposed on the immigration of Chinese by the Acts of the United States and of the Australian Provinces have also, to some extent, affected the Opium trade.

Opium. Macao has also completed with Hongkong in the supply of prepared Opium for exportation.

4. The next item of importance on the list of Receipts which have fallen short of the original Estimates is the duty on the importation of business caused by the prolonged hostilities between France and China accounts for the reductions shown under this head. Light Dues and Junk Licences also show a falling off, though they have not been affected to the same extent. The withdrawal of part of the accumulated balances which are being employed on important Public Works, now in progress, explains the smaller amount received for interest (No. 3); and the falling off on receipts for Storage of Goods (No. 4) is owing to the imports of that article having been allowed to remain for a comparatively short time in the Stores.

5. A considerable portion of the excess shown under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts (No. 5) has been derived from profit on the sale of Goods (No. 4) is owing to the imports of that article having been allowed to remain for a comparatively short time in the Stores.

6. A considerable portion of the excess shown under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts (No. 5) has been derived from profit on the sale of Goods (No. 4) is owing to the imports of that article having been allowed to remain for a comparatively short time in the Stores.

7. The remaining portion of the excess results from the new contract for removal of excremental matter which had not been entered into when the Estimates were framed.

8. The increases shown for Rents of Lands and Municipal Rates, (No. 6) and (No. 7), are due to sales of land and the

